

10 JUL 2001

Mahathir-Budget

DR MAHATHIR CHAIRS BUDGET 2002 DIALOGUE

PUTRAJAYA, July 10 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today chaired the Budget 2002 dialogue at the Implementation-Coordination Unit, Prime Minister's Department here.

The dialogue is an official key pre-Budget event to obtain ideas and constructive suggestions for the handling of current and future issues and economic challenges.

It is being attended by representatives of 50 organisations including universities, banks, finance companies, non-governmental organisations, government agencies and ministries.

Dr Mahathir, who is also Finance Minister, said all inputs at the dialogue would form the basis in the drawing up of strategies and measures in the Budget for next year, to be tabled in Parliament in October.

The theme of this year's dialogue is "Promoting Growth By Strengthening Resilience and Enhancing Competitiveness."

Dr Mahathir said the theme was chosen because the main challenge facing the Malaysian economy at present was strengthening its resilience from external jolts by diversifying sources of growth, strengthening the financial sector and enhancing the country's competitiveness.

Also present were Deputy Finance Ministers Datuk Chan Kong Choy and Datuk Dr Shafie Mohamed Salleh.

According to the programme, the dialogue is divided into three sessions with the first session, today, discussing expansion of macro-economics and related issues.

The second session on Friday would involve discussions with the representatives of the major economic sectors and selected industries.

They would include the manufacturing, agriculture, mining, construction and property sectors, financial and banking services and various other service sectors covering tourism, education and transport.

The third session on Saturday would provide the opportunity to representatives of social and community organisations to discuss various issues and the national social agenda.

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